



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The 72 tonnes of rice donated by Republic of Korea (ROK) were handed over for poverty alleviation in Siem Reap and Kampong Cham provinces.

At the ceremonial rice distribution on 26 August 2018, the APTERR Secretariat provided the 72-tonne rice contributed by ROK government through the Tier 3 programme to support the poor in Siem Reap and Kampong Cham provinces for fighting poverty. The rice is part of ROK's 250-tonne rice contribution to Cambodia. The first 178-tonne rice was released to help people affected by floods and droughts in five provinces in January 2018. Under this rice release of 72 tonnes for poverty alleviation, 32 tonnes were allocated to help the poor in Siem Reap, while 42 tonnes to Kampong Cham. At the ceremony, Cambodia's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) also expressed his thanks and appreciation to ROK government for a generous rice contribution, as well as the APTERR Secretariat for supporting this rice assistance to 3,800 beneficiaries in two provinces.

Source: APTERR Secretariat. (2018, Sep 4). *ROK's 72-MT rice to Cambodia for poverty alleviation.*

Malaysia

New target of rice self-sufficiency is to achieve 80 percent by 2020.

Malaysia targets to achieve 80 percent of self-sufficiency in rice by 2020, moving up from the current 70 percent. Increasing the rice variants and fertiliser, and receiving technology transferred from China, Taiwan, and Japan would help Malaysia reach its target. However, Malaysia would have to import rice even after attaining self-sufficiency because of food security, adding that there would be people who still choose to consume imported rice, such as basmati, according to Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister.

Source: Bernama. (2018, Aug 29). *Malaysia targets 80 pct rice self-sufficiency by 2022.*

Myanmar

Rice exports in five months of 2018 dropped in volume, but up in value.

According to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), from 1 April to 17 August of the mini budget year of 2018, Myanmar had exported around 909,376 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth about 315 million USD, down over 100,000 tonnes in volume, but up 15 million USD in value from the same period of 2017. Last 2017-18 fiscal year, rice exports via maritime trade increased up to 48 percent from about 30 percent in the previous years. This year, rice export via maritime trade is tended to be normal, while via border trade is in concern because it depends on the situation in China and its minimum support price, said joint General Secretary of MRF.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Aug 31). *Rice export in five months declines by over 100,000 tons compared to same period of last year.*

Philippines

The immediate importation of 133,500 tonnes of rice was approved.

As Department of Agricultural Secretary formally proposed an additional rice import to address limited supplies of the staple food in the southern provinces, the National Food Authority (NFA) Council finally approved

the immediate importation of 133,500 tonnes of rice during its special meeting on 29 August 2018. The imported rice will be allocated to ZAMBASULTA, including Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, to mitigate ongoing problem of high rice prices amid limited supplies in these areas. Delivery for the 33,500 tonnes is set for 15-30 September 2018, while 100,000 tonnes are expected to arrive between 1 October to 30 November 2018, according to NFA.

Source: National Food Authority. (2018, Sep 4). *THERE IS SUFFICIENT RICE SUPPLY*; Philippine News Agency. (2018, Sep 4). *NFA okays immediate importation of 133,500MT rice for Zambasulta*; and The Business Time. (2018, Aug 28). *Crackdown on smuggling sparks rice shortage crisis in Philippines*.

Thailand

Thai rice exports in the first seven months of this year increased in value.

According to the President of Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA), Thailand has shipped about 6.16 million tonnes of rice worth 3.14 billion USD, up 4.5 percent in value but down 4 percent in volume from the same period last year. In July alone, about 836,381 tonnes of rice were exported with earnings of 437 million USD, down 7.3 percent and 6.4 percent in volume and value, respectively, compared with June 2018. The decrease was primarily due to dips in shipments of parboiled rice and Hom Mali rice. Shipments of parboiled rice significantly declined by 40 percent to only 140,844 tonnes, while Hom Mali rice decreased by 7.3 percent to 82,531 tonnes, compared to last month. However, demand for white rice remained strong with the volume in July increased 13.4 percent from June to 568,885 tonnes. In August 2018, rice shipments were forecast to stay in range of 800,000 - 900,000 tonnes with the potential buyers, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Angola, Malaysia, Kenya, Benin and South Africa, said TREA.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Sep 4). *Rice exports slip in July, still poised for 11m tonnes*; and Khaosod. (2018, Sep 3). *Rice exports increased in value during the first 7 months*.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam will export 1 million tonnes of rice to Egypt, due to the latest agreement.

Pursuant to the visit of the President of Viet Nam to Egypt this week, it resulted in a trade cooperation agreement involving the supply of 1 million tonnes of rice, which will come into force next week. The rice will be transported in batches within 3-4 months, which will help strengthen Egypt's strategic reserve of rice for the next year and the presence of domestic rice stocks in the markets as Egypt, this year, has run the new policies to reduce the area allowed for rice cultivation to rationalise the use of water. This trading will be the responsibility of the government, not the private sector, according to the head of rice division of the Egyptian Federation of Industries.

Source: The Saigon Times Daily. (2018, Aug 31). *Egypt to import 1 million tons of rice from Vietnam*; Ahram Online. (2018, Aug 30). *Egypt agrees to import 1 million tons of rice from Vietnam over 3-4 months*; Reuters. (2018, June 5). *Egypt to begin importing rice after slashing its own cultivation*.

Republic of Korea

Rice-cultivated area in 2018 declined by 2.2 percent, as farmers opted to grow other crops instead of staple grain.

According to the data compiled by Statistics Korea, rice cultivation area nationwide this year stood at 737,000 hectares, down by 2.2 percent from 754,000 hectares last year. The country has been suffering from rice oversupply for years, due mainly to changes in diet and eating habits. Regarding to this, the government has been encouraging farmers to cultivate other crops instead of rice as part of efforts to deal with a chronic overabundance of supply.

Source: The Korea Herald. (2018, Sep 4). *Rice paddies down in 2018*; and Yonhab News Agency. (2018, Aug 30). *Rice paddies down in 2018: data*.

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